

The Impact of Our Witness

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We never know the impact we might have on others. A Sunday school teacher led a Boston shoe clerk to Christ. You've probably never heard the name of the teacher: Kimball. But you probably have heard of the shoe clerk he brought to Jesus: Dwight Moody.

It doesn't stop there. As an evangelist, Moody had a great spiritual influence on F. B. Meyer. Meyer preached on college campuses across the nation, and God used him to reach the heart of J. Wilbur Chapman. Chapman, a leader in the YMCA, brought Billy Sunday, the famous baseball legend, in for a revival in Charlotte. The response from the community was so enthusiastic, that they planned another event led by Mordecai Hamm. In response to Hamm's invitation, a kid from a dairy farm made his decision to follow Christ. His name: Billy Graham.

Think of the millions of lives that were touched because of the witness of one Sunday school teacher. The same could happen with us. There's no telling what the impact of something we do or share could have in the life of someone.

The truth is, everything we do or say has a potential impact, but there are times in our lives when we have opportunities to reach out and touch people in a special way. Halloween can be one such opportunity. There was a man in the neighborhood where I grew up who made snow cones every Halloween for all of us trick-or-treaters. I remember him. More than that, I remember how special he made each of us feel. It inspired within me a desire to one day, if at all possible, to do what he did – to make and hand out snow cones on Halloween – to make good memories by touching the hearts of children and youth in special ways. God blessed me with the gift of a machine, and if you come by First United Methodist Church on Halloween night, you will find pumpkins carved in special ways, bowls of the best candy, and yes, my snow cone machine running and the light of Christ shining.

You never know how God will use your witness to touch the life of another or how many will be touched because of one person you touched.

With Halloween coming up, let me close by suggesting that being a Christian is a lot like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. God then goes into your head, scoops out all of the yucky stuff, removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and carves you a new smiling face. Finally, God puts His light inside of you to shine for the entire world to see.

Shine, Jesus, shine!